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INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, NEA 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4683
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY FORTLAMY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
CINCUSAFE
CINCEUR/ECJC
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COMSIXTHFLT
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 2251

SUBJECT : SITREP 1800 SEPTEMBER 5 LIBYA

REFERENCE: TRIPOLI 2215

1. RESULTS OF RCC EFFORTS TO RESTORE NORMALCY APPARENT THROUGHOUT CITY. RELAXATION OF CURFEW WAS EXTENDED TO SEVEN HOURS. STREETS WERE SWEPT AND WASHED DOWN FOR FIRST TIME SINCE TAKE-OVER. NUMBER OF ARMED SOLDIERS ALONG STREETS

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REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY UNTIL CURFEW REIMPOSED WHEN SECURITY NOTICEABLE TIGHTENED AT CHECKPOINTS AND AT RCC HEADQUARTERS. COMMERCIAL CABLES FROM ABROAD BEGAN FLOWING IN TODAY WITH PTT DELIVERING ACCUMULATED BACKLOG AS WELL AS CURRENT TRAFFIC TO OIL COMPANIES. AROUND MID-DAY PTT BEGAN ACCEPTING CODED TELEGRAMS FROM DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. THREE OIL FIRMS WERE PERMITTED OPEN UP THEIR DIRECT TELEX CIRCUITS TO NEW YORK FOR TWO HOURS EACH. ORIGINAL ONE-TIME PERMITS ISSUED TO OIL COMPANIES FOR RESUPPLY FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN AMENDED INTO UNRESTRICTED BLANKET PERMISSION. NEWSPAPERS (THREE INDEPENDENTS) APPEARED IN TRIPOLI FOR FIRST TIME SINCE COUP. LUFTHANSA 707 GROUNDED IN TRIPOLI SINCE SEPTEMBER 1 DEPARTED LAST NIGHT. BELIEVE SAME TRUE OF KLM CHARTER HELD AT MARSA BREGA. BOTH LEFT EMPTY. GOVERNOR BANK LIBYA TOLD AMERICAN BANK MANAGER HE HOPES BANKS MAY BE ABLE OPEN SEPTEMBER 6 OR AT LEAST SEPTEMBER 8.

2. LIFTING OF CURFEW FOR LONGEST PERIOD TO DATE MADE POSSIBLE LARGEST DEMONSTRATION YET SEEN. IN MANIFESTATION CLEARLY ORGANIZED BY RCC TO ENABLE TEENAGE AND YOUNG ADULT MALES TO LET OFF STEAM, 900 TO 1,000 NOISY DEMONSTRATORS LED BY THREE SALADIN ARMORED CARS (ONE CARRYING THREE TV CAMERAMEN ON ITS REAR DECK) PARADED THROUGH STREETS TO RCC HEADQUARTERS AT RADIO STATION SHOUTING PRAISES OF REVOLUTION AND MILITARY GROUP.

3. RCC CONTINUED TO INSIST ON EED TO PROTECT FOREIGN RESIDENTS. ANNOUNCEMENT LIFTING CURFEW EXPLICITLY CAUTIONED LIBYANS TO RESPECT FOREIGNERS IN THEIR MIDST. AMERICANS STRANDED IN LIBYA PALACE HOTEL REPORT DISCOVERING FOLLOWING MESSAGE THIS MORNING PWINTED ON OUTSIDE WALL OF HOTEL: "YOU ARE IN OUR COUNTRY AND YOU ARE SAFE HERE."

4. RECOGNIZING PROBLEM POSED BY GROWING SHORTAGE OF FOOD IN TRIPOLI, RCC MOVED FURTHER TO RESTORE NORMAL FLOW OF LOCAL SUPPLIES. SLAUGHTERHOUSE STAFFS WERE ORDERED TO REPORT FOR WORK. DRY CARGO SHIPS, HOWEVER, HAVE STILL NOT UNLOADED, APPARENTLY DUE CONTINUED ABSENCE STEVEDORES. SHELL TANKER WHICH DISCHARGED YESTERDAY HAS NOT YET BEEN ALLOWED TO DEPART.

5. FOREIGN RELATIONS: SPECIAL IRAQI DELEGATION IS REPORTED TO HAVE ARRIVED IN BENGHAZI TODAY TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS

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AND SUPPORT. RADIO LAR ANNOUNCED BULGARIA, CUBA, AND MAURITANIA HAVE EXTENDED RECOGNITION. WEST GERMAN CHARGE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT FRG CONSIDERS STATEMENT ISSUED IN BONN RE NEW REGIME FULLY SATISFIES REQUIREMENTS OF RECOGNITION AND FRG THEREFORE DOES NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO ISSUE ANYMORE EXPLICIT DECLARATION. STATEMENT OF SUPPORT BY LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE IS BEING INTERPRETED BY LIBYANS AS OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. HURRIYYA FRONT-PAGED AP STORY REPORTING AMERICAN SPOKESMAN'S PRAISE FOR ASSURANCES GIVEN CHARGE BY RCC RE ITS DETERMINATION TO PROTECT "LIVES AND PROPERTY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN LIBYA." GP-4.MAKEB

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